


33. (New) The method of Claim 22, additionally including waiting for a period of about 0.1 seconds to about 5 seconds after spraying of the composition before applying the gas onto the stent.

34. (New) The method of Claim 22, wherein the solvent is selected from the group consisting of cyclohexanone, ethyl acetate, chloroform and methanol.

 35. (New) A method of coating a stent, comprising the steps of:
adjusting the temperature of the stent to a temperature other than ambient temperature;
applying a coating substance onto the stent after the adjusting step; and
maintaining the temperature of the stent at a temperature other than ambient temperature during the applying step.

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Paragraph 22 beginning on page 7 has been amended as follows:

Each repetition can be followed by removal of a significant amount of the solvent(s).

The removal of the solvent(s) can be performed following a waiting period of about 0.1 seconds to about 5 seconds after the application of the coating composition so as to allow the liquid sufficient time to flow and spread over the stent surface before the solvent(s) is removed to form a coating. The waiting period is particularly suitable if the coating composition contains a volatile solvent, such as solvents having boiling points $<130^{\circ}\text{C}$ at ambient pressure, since such solvents are typically removed quickly.

Paragraph 24 beginning on page 8 has been amended as follows:

In one embodiment, the stent can be warmed to a temperature of from about 35°C to about 80°C prior to the application of the coating composition so as to facilitate faster removal of the solvent(s). The particular temperature selected depends, at least in part, on the particular active agent employed in the coating composition. By way of example, pre-heating of the stent prior to applying a composition containing actinomycin D should be performed at a temperature not greater than about 55°C. Pre-heating is particularly suitable for embodiments in which the solvent(s) employed in the coating composition has a high boiling point, i.e., less volatile solvents having boiling points of, for example, >130°C at ambient pressure (e.g., dimethylsulfoxide (DMSO), dimethylformamide (DMF), and dimethylacetamide (DMAC)).